

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/990,085

Examiner

Kimbinh T. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

MECH, RADOMIR

Art Unit

2671

## -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 01/04/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Terminal Disclaimer***

1. The terminal disclaimer filed on 12/23/05 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of Patent No 6940504 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 20-29 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 20, the prior art does not teach a method for rendering a scene that includes gaseous phenomena, comprising: determining a travel distance value through at least one fog object from a reference point to a pixel; converting the travel distance value to a fog factor value; and determining a pixel color value for the pixel based on the fog factor value, whereby the scene can be rendered using the determined pixel color, wherein the fog object is bounded by a front face and a back face, and wherein the determining a travel distance value comprises: initializing the pixel color value; determining a back distance value from the reference point to the back face of the fog object and adding the back distance value to a color buffer value; and determining a front distance value from the reference point to the front face of the fog object and subtracting the front distance value from the color buffer value, wherein the final color buffer value represents a scaled travel distance through the fog object.

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Claim 25, the prior art does not teach determining a travel distance value through at least one fog object from a reference point to a pixel, wherein the fog object is bounded by a front face and a back face; convert the travel distance value to a fog factor value; and determine a pixel color value for the pixel based on the fog factor value, whereby the images can be rendered using the determined pixel color, wherein the instructions configured to render images having atmospheric effects by causing one or more processors to determine a travel distance value comprise instructions configured to cause the one or more processors to: initialize the pixel color value; determine a back distance value from the reference point to the back face of the fog object and adding the back distance value to a color buffer value; and determine a front distance value from the reference point to the front face of the fog object and subtracting the front distance value from the color buffer value, wherein the final color buffer value represents a scaled travel distance through the fog object.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kimbinh T. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-7644. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:00

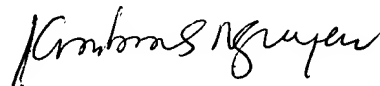
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AM to 4:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Friday from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Razavi can be reached at (571) 272-7664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

February 17, 2006



**KIMBINH T. NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**